



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 30, 2017

The Honorable Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House
State Office Building, Room 463
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Daudt:

Please be advised I have received, approved, signed, and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State Chapter 91, House File 707, a bill funding provisions for the Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund, Parks and Trails Fund, and the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

I am pleased that an agreement was reached on this bill, since there were policy provisions in the original bill proposed by the Legislature that I found objectionable. I am also glad the Lessard-Sams Citizen Council's recommendations were restored. Thank you for your commitment to the many sportsmen and women, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, hunters, anglers, and everyone else committed to the enhancement of our state's priceless outdoor heritage.

This bill leaves future work for the Legislature to address stable funding for Soil Water and Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and to fully fund the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). SWCDs rooted in our local communities support landowners work to protect our soil and the quality of our water. They deserve and require certainty to retain staff and provide consistent services. While the Clean Water Fund meets immediate needs for SWCD funding, a long term solution is needed. The CREP program will support landowners' implementation of buffers and wellhead protection to protect our lakes, rivers, and drinking water. The tradeoff to reduce my request for CREP funding in order to fund SWCDs through the Clean Water Fund was disappointing. I was very pleased to set up the possibility of a payback in the event of a positive forecast in November.

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With this, I expect that the Clean Water Fund payback of \$22 million will restore the remainder of my 2017 recommendations including \$17.25 million to CREP. Additionally, in 2018 I will be submitting a bonding request that will assure that CREP is fully funded. It is my hope that we will invest funds in CREP to leverage the maximum federal funding to support Minnesota farmers.

Sincerely,



Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Michelle L. Fischbach, President of the Senate
Senator Paul E. Gazelka, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Minority Leader
Senator Carrie Ruud, Minnesota Senate
Representative Melissa Hortman, House Minority Leader
Representative Bob Gunther, House of Representatives
The Honorable Steve Simon, Secretary of State
Mr. Cal R. Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Patrick Murphy, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Paul Marinac, Revisor of Statutes